

In re application of: Fritter et al.
Application No.: 10/618,401

Remarks

In the Office Action mailed December 8, 2004, the Examiner has required that Applicants elect a single disclosed species of absorbent material, a single disclosed species of performance-enhancing active, a single disclosed species of the dispersal of the active, and a single disclosed species of core for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Examiner has deemed claim 1 to be generic.

In response to the Office Action mailed December 8, 2004, Applicants elect to prosecute bentonite and expanded perlite as the absorbent material; activated carbon as the performance-enhancing active; and homogeneously dispersed as the dispersal. Applicants respectfully submit that an election of a separate species of core is not necessary because Applicants' original claim 1, deemed to be generic by the Examiner in the above-mentioned Office Action, did not include the limitation of a core material. However, to comply with the restriction requirement, Applicants elect expanded perlite as the core material. Support for the election of expanded perlite as the core material can be found in Table 1 between paragraphs [0082] and [0083] of Applicants' specification. Although the description listed in the column representing core materials, simply lists Perlite, it is submitted that the data associated with the examples, i.e., a ratio of bentonite to perlite ranging from 84:16 to 76:24 resulting in a bulk density ranging from 0.27-0.39 (bulk density reduction ranging from 47%–63%), reflects that the Perlite used in the examples can accurately be described as expanded perlite. Attached hereto is a Wikipedia encyclopedia description of the bulk density of raw and expanded perlite which is consistent with Applicants' data.

In response to the Office Action mailed August 2, 2005 indicating that the Applicants' reply filed on May 25, 2005 was not fully responsive to the prior Office Action, the following amendments to the claims are made: All prior claims listed in the application, i.e. claims 1-108, are cancelled. New claims 109-185 which correspond to original claims 1-75, respectively, have been added. Additionally, new claims 186-197 which read on the elected species have been added. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by way of these amendments to the claims. Support for

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new claim 186 can be found in [0027], [0028], [0031] FIG.1 (104), [0041], [0045], [0060], and [0072] FIG. 3 of Applicants' specification. Support for new claim 187 can be found in [0028] and [0051]-[0059] of Applicants' specification. Support for new claims 188 and 189 can be found in [0054] of Applicants' specification. Support for new claim 190 can be found in [0115] of Applicants' specification. Support for new claims 191 and 192 can be found in [0073] of Applicants' specification. Support for new claims 193 and 194 can be found in [0113] of Applicants' specification. Support for new claim 195 can be found in [0149] of Applicants' specification and original claim 39. Support for new claim 196 can be found in original claim 66.

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Conclusion

If it is believed that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of the present application, or clarify matters with regard to its allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (510) 271-3136.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

Ann M. Lee
Reg. No. 47,741
Customer No.: 27019
Attorney for Applicants
The Clorox Company
P.O. Box 24305
Oakland, CA 94623-1305
Telephone: (510) 271-3136
Telefax: (510) 271-1652

Perlite

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

Perlite is an amorphous volcanic glass that has a relatively high water content.

Typical analysis of perlite:

- 70-75% silicon dioxide: SiO_2
- 12-15% aluminum oxide: Al_2O_3
- 3-4% sodium oxide: Na_2O
- 3-5% potassium oxide: K_2O
- 0.5-2% iron oxide: Fe_2O_3
- 0.2-0.7% magnesium oxide: MgO
- 0.5-1.5% calcium oxide: CaO
- 3-5% loss on ignition (chemical / combined water)

Properties and uses

When it reaches temperatures of 850–900 °C, perlite softens (since it is a glass) and water trapped in the structure escapes and this causes the expansion of the material to 7–15 times its original volume. The expanded material is a brilliant white, due to the reflectivity of the trapped bubbles. Unexpanded ("raw") perlite bulk density: around 1100 kg/m³ (1.1 g/cm³). Typical expanded perlite bulk density: 30–150 kg/m³

Due to the low density of expanded perlite it has many uses: Lightweight plasters and mortars, insulation, ceiling tiles and filter aids. In horticulture it makes composts more open to air, while still having good water-retention properties; it makes a good medium for hydroponics. Perlite is also used in foundries and cryogenic insulations.

See also

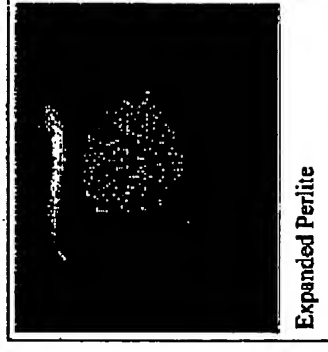
Vermiculite

External links

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perlite>

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- Perlite Institute (<http://www.perlite.org/>)
- Mineral Information Institute - perlite (<http://www.mii.org/Minerals/photoperlite.html>)

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perlite"

Categories: Igneous rocks | Granular materials

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